Political Economy of East Africa Training Course

Professional Development Training Course Outline

Category	Political Science and International Relations	**Duration**	5 Days
Base Fee	$1,500 USD	**Delivery Mode**	Online / On-site Hybrid

Course Introduction

Political Economy of East Africa Training Course offers a comprehensive and critical examination of the **political economy** of East Africa, providing participants with the tools to analyze the intricate interplay between political power, economic systems, and social structures. East Africa is a region of immense diversity and dynamic change, characterized by rapid urbanization, significant resource discoveries, and evolving regional integration efforts. Yet, it also faces persistent challenges, including institutional weaknesses, governance deficits, and deep-seated inequalities. This course is designed to go beyond superficial analysis, equipping participants with a nuanced understanding of the historical legacies, contemporary power dynamics, and market forces that shape development outcomes across the region.

The curriculum delves into the historical foundations of the modern East African state, exploring the lingering effects of colonialism on political institutions and economic trajectories. It then pivots to contemporary issues, from the political drivers of economic growth and resource management to the challenges of poverty, inequality, and democratic consolidation. By integrating **cutting-edge research**, practical case studies, and interactive discussions, this training empowers participants to critically assess policy interventions, identify opportunities for reform, and develop effective strategies for engaging with diverse stakeholders in the public, private, and civil society sectors. The ultimate goal is to foster a new generation of leaders and practitioners who can navigate the complexities of East Africa's development landscape with strategic insight and ethical purpose.

Programme Curriculum

Political Economy of East Africa Training Course

Introduction

Political Economy of East Africa Training Course offers a comprehensive and critical examination of the **political economy** of East Africa, providing participants with the tools to analyze the intricate interplay between political power, economic systems, and social structures. East Africa is a region of immense diversity and dynamic change, characterized by rapid urbanization, significant resource discoveries, and evolving regional integration efforts. Yet, it also faces persistent challenges, including institutional weaknesses, governance deficits, and deep-seated inequalities. This course is designed to go beyond superficial analysis, equipping participants with a nuanced understanding of the historical legacies, contemporary power dynamics, and market forces that shape development outcomes across the region.

The curriculum delves into the historical foundations of the modern East African state, exploring the lingering effects of colonialism on political institutions and economic trajectories. It then pivots to contemporary issues, from the political drivers of economic growth and resource management to the challenges of poverty, inequality, and democratic consolidation. By integrating **cutting-edge research**, practical case studies, and interactive discussions, this training empowers participants to critically assess policy interventions, identify opportunities for reform, and develop effective strategies for engaging with diverse stakeholders in the public, private, and civil society sectors. The ultimate goal is to foster a new generation of leaders and practitioners who can navigate the complexities of East Africa's development landscape with strategic insight and ethical purpose.

Course Duration

5 days

Course Objectives

1. Understand the intricate relationship between political systems, economic policies, and social outcomes in East Africa.
2. Critically assess the role of formal and informal institutions in shaping governance and economic performance.
3. Apply analytical frameworks and methodologies to conduct robust **political economy analysis** (PEA) in development programming.
4. Explore the drivers, challenges, and opportunities of regional integration within the East African Community (EAC).
5. Understand the evolving dynamics between state actors, civil society, and the private sector.
6. Analyze the political and economic implications of natural resource management and the "resource curse" phenomenon.
7. Unpack the structural causes of persistent poverty and inequality, and evaluate policy responses.
8. Examine the political economy of corruption, its institutional roots, and strategies for anti-corruption reform.
9. Critically evaluate the impact of foreign aid, foreign direct investment, and emerging donor relationships on development.
10. Investigate the political economy of rapid urbanization and its implications for service delivery, employment, and social inclusion.
11. Pinpoint entry points and levers for promoting pro-poor policies and inclusive growth.
12. Analyze the political and economic drivers of conflict and insecurity, and their impact on development trajectories.
13. Develop an ethical framework for leadership and decision-making in complex political and economic environments.

Organizational Benefits

- Move beyond technical fixes to design more politically astute and contextually relevant programs that address underlying power dynamics.
- Equip staff with the analytical skills to anticipate and manage political risks and policy changes, ensuring the sustainability of projects and investments.
- Strengthen relationships and build trust with a diverse range of stakeholders, from government officials to local communities, by understanding their incentives and interests.
- Enable leadership to make more informed and strategic decisions by integrating political economy insights into planning and resource allocation.
- Maximize the long-term impact of development interventions and business initiatives by addressing the root causes of development challenges.
- Build a team of skilled practitioners capable of conducting their own political economy analysis, reducing reliance on external consultants.

Target Audience

- Development Practitioners & Aid Workers.
- Government Officials & Public Servants.
- Private Sector Leaders.
- Researchers & Academics.
- Journalists & Analysts.
- Diplomats & International Relations Specialists.
- Civil Society & Advocacy Leaders.
- Entrepreneurs & Innovators.

Course Outline

Module 1: The Foundations of East Africa's Political Economy

- Colonial Legacies.
- Post-Independence State.
- Economic Liberalization.
- Political Settlements.
- Case Study: The legacy of land policies in Kenya and its link to persistent inequality and political instability.

Module 2: The Political Economy of Governance

- Formal vs. Informal Institutions.
- Corruption and Patronage.
- Democratization and Accountability.
- The Role of Elites.
- **Case Study:** The political economy of fiscal decentralization in Uganda and the challenges of service delivery at the local level.

Module 3: Regional Integration and Trade

- EAC and COMESA.
- Political Drivers of Integration.
- Non-Tariff Barriers.
- Infrastructure and Connectivity.

- **Case Study:** The political contestation over the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) projects and their implications for regional trade and debt.

Module 4: Natural Resources and Conflict

- The Resource Curse.
- Resource Governance.
- Political Drivers of Conflict.
- Foreign Investment and Geopolitics.
- **Case Study:** The political economy of oil discoveries in Uganda and Tanzania and the potential for both economic boom and political instability.

Module 5: Poverty, Inequality, and Social Justice

- Poverty and Exclusion.
- The Role of Gender.
- Social Protection.
- Youth Unemployment.
- **Case Study:** The political and social dynamics of urban poverty and slum upgrading initiatives in Nairobi, Kenya.

Module 6: External Actors and Global Integration

- Foreign Aid and Conditionality.
- Rise of New Donors.
- Investment and Debt.
- Diaspora and Remittances.
- **Case Study:** Analyzing the political-economic motivations and outcomes of Chinese-funded infrastructure projects in East Africa.

Module 7: The Private Sector and Economic Transformation

- State-Business Relations."
- Informal Economy.
- Entrepreneurship and Innovation.
- Sectoral Analysis.
- **Case Study:** The political economy of Kenya's tech industry and the role of government policy in either enabling or hindering innovation.

Module 8: Strategic Action and Policy Influence

- Tools for PEA.
- Navigating the Policy Process.
- Building Coalitions.
- Advocacy and Lobbying.
- Ethical Considerations.
- **Case Study:** A simulation exercise where participants develop a political economy-informed strategy for a real-world policy challenge.

Training Methodology

This course employs an **experiential and interactive learning** methodology. It moves beyond traditional lectures to prioritize participant engagement and practical application. The approach includes:

- **Interactive Lectures:** Concise presentations providing theoretical frameworks and foundational knowledge.
- **Case Study Analysis:** In-depth, facilitated discussions of real-world scenarios to apply concepts.
- **Group Work:** Collaborative exercises to analyze specific political-economic challenges and develop solutions.
- **Expert Panels:** Sessions with leading practitioners, policymakers, and academics from the region.
- **Simulations & Role-Playing:** Dynamic activities to practice navigating complex power dynamics and negotiation.
- **Peer-to-Peer Learning:** Opportunities for participants to share their own experiences and insights.

Register as a group from 3 participants for a Discount

Send us an email: info@fineskilltrainingcenter.org or call *+254769199797*

Certification

Upon successful completion of this training, participants will be issued with a globally- recognized certificate.

Tailor-Made Course

We also offer tailor-made courses based on your needs.

Key Notes

a. The participant must be conversant with English.

b. Upon completion of training the participant will be issued with an Authorized Training Certificate

c. Course duration is flexible and the contents can be modified to fit any number of days.

d. The course fee includes facilitation training materials, 2 coffee breaks, buffet lunch and A Certificate upon successful completion of Training.

e. One-year post-training support Consultation and Coaching provided after the course.

f. Payment should be done at least a week before commence of the training, to Fineskill Training Center account, as indicated in the invoice so as to enable us prepare better for you.

Upcoming Scheduled Sessions

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Online	$1,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$1,500

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$4,500
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000

Ready to enroll or request a customized program? Book online or contact us:

Register Online Now

Email: info@fineskilltrainingcenter.com | Website: www.fineskilltrainingcenter.com